

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Claude E. Brown  
Issued Patent No.: 5,848,492  
Patent Issue Date: December 15, 1998  
For: AGRICULTURAL  
METHODS WITH  
SUPERHEATED STEAM  
Attorney Docket: 800132-15

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*Joel Drake*  
Joel Drake

26  
Statement  
of  
Status  
Dates  
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**STATEMENT OF STATUS/SUPPORT FOR CHANGES TO CLAIMS****UNDER 37 CFR § 1.173(c)**

BOX: REISSUE  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Changes to the claims are presented in the Preliminary Amendment attached herewith. This paper presents a status of claims and support for changes are presented in the attached Preliminary Amendment.

**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

Claims 1 - 18 remain from the original application. Of those, claims 11 and 12 have been amended with this amendment. New claims 19 - 43 are presented with this amendment.

**SUPPORT FOR CLAIM CHANGES**

The claim changes included herein are presented to correct, within two years of the original issue date, the error of having claimed less than the patentee had the right to claim in the original patent. Support for claim changes are found at several places within the specification and drawings.

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The following are illustrative examples indicating support for these changes. They are not the only examples within the specification and drawings to support these changes, nor are the examples meant to limit the scope of the claims.

Amended claims 11 and 12 more broadly claim the use of superheated steam to defoliation, which is also addressed in new claims 19 - 21. The invention has been described, in part, as being generally useful for defoliating plants. Support for claims to defoliation in general can be found at column 2, lines 39 - 42, and in FIG. 1 and the supporting text. While not meant to limit the scope of the invention, the specification describes the use of superheated steam to defoliate plants in general (column 2, lines 43 - 46), and also describes some specific examples, for example to a vine, tree, shrub or the like (column 4, lines 8 - 10).

Claims 22 - 29 and 30 - 36 are directed to treatment of grafts. An example of the application to grafts can be found in column 5, lines 5 - 8.

Claims 37 - 43 are to the previously disclosed matter of fumigation. The invention has been described, in part, as being generally useful for fumigation. Support for claims to fumigation are found, in part, in the SUMMARY OF INVENTION, and at column 5, lines 11 - 14.

### CLOSING

In view of the foregoing, it is now believed that all claims now pending in this application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (415) 986-1300.

Respectfully submitted,



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December 15, 2000

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